

# OIL & FAT INDUSTRIES

## The Editor's Page

### Progress Through Fellowship

IN THE early years of the American Oil Chemists' Society, then known as The Society of Cotton Products Analysts, the scant handful of progressive chemists who fostered the organization received little encouragement from their employers, the oil millers, refiners and packers. The general attitude of the manufacturer was that chemists were a nuisance anyway, that his chemist might possibly know a trick or two beyond the ken of his fellows, and that there was more danger of competitors finding out those tricks than of his chemist learning anything by attending a meeting of others following the same specialized line of endeavor.

In spite, however, of this apathy on the part of those who could benefit most from it, the Society grew steadily, and chiefly because of the earnest efforts of a few devoted leaders, its accomplishments have been definite. The advance in quality of products produced and the reduction of operating cost which have been achieved in the milling and refining of oils, and in the manufacture of shortening, margarine, mayonnaise and allied products in this country during the past twenty years can be credited at least eighty-five percent to the American Oil Chemists Society.

The quality of analytical control work has been elevated to a plane of accuracy equal, if not superior, to that of any other branch of industry, and this has been achieved solely through the cooperative work between members and other oil and feed chemists, which work was started, fostered and developed, and is still continued by the Society.

Standard methods of analysis have been developed, tested by years of cooperative use and made available to all who may be interested by publication in convenient loose-leaf form. The importance of uniform reagent chemicals has not been overlooked with the result that oil chemists may obtain standard materials for several of their most important assays from the Society.

What force has been most potent in achieving these not insignificant results? As we consider the Society's progress, it seems to us that the

most effective agency in its promotion has been simply *Friendship*. The men who have contributed most have been those who had friendly feeling for their fellows, those who were willing to share their discoveries with their friends and to extend a helping hand to others among their colleagues. No progress can be credited to those who are deterred from working for the common weal by jealousy, fear, suspicion of others, false pride or overmastering ambition.

Fortunately for the American Oil Chemists Society, the great majority of its members have always maintained an attitude of simple kindly goodfellowship toward all others. The meetings have attracted more and more attendants each year, largely, we believe, because of that very fellowship which pervades them.

### The Churn—A Symbol

TIRELESS as the descent of Niagara, the river, and even louder than its roar, the blasts of the Dairy Interests continue to reverberate through the land, from the classic columns of Capitol Hill to the shaded dells of the Columbia and the writhing sands of the Snake.

The latest attack on margarine occurred on the Northwest Front, directing a spearhead thrust against the loosely-organized and little-drilled Retail-Grocers Division.

These poor little tradesmen, striving to gain a living in the most difficult retail business in America, are to be boycotted by the farmers unless they cease and desist from the iniquitous practice of trying to make a little profit out of the sale of a clean, wholesome food, margarine. This is indicative of the lengths to which the irresponsible politicians and lobbyists who claim to represent the farmer will go in their efforts to exclude unjustly a legitimate article of commerce from its markets.

As in the past, however, these efforts will fall short of the desired accomplishment. Already, the National Association of Retail Grocers, including in its membership more than eighty thousand of the country's most progressive grocers, has gone on record to the effect that "the butter farmer is behind the